

P24195.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner:

Filed : September 11, 2003

For : VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

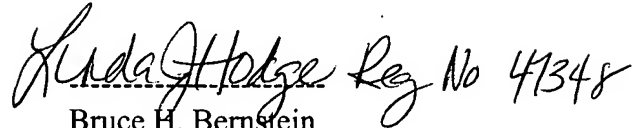
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-229052, published on September 10, 1996, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.


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December 11, 2003
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P24195		Serial No. 10/659,303						
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)								Applicant Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.				
Filing Date September 11, 2003							Group 3732					
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS												
		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
		8 - 2 2 9 0 5 2				09/10/96	JAPAN					
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)												
		1	English Language Abstract of JP 8-229052.									
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED							
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.												